

FOR THE VOICELESS

GLBT student group prepares for Day of Silence in remembrance of hate crime victims.

■ News, Page 3

SATIRIST REMEMBERED

Columnist fondly remembers Vonnegut's genius.

A&E, Page 6

YEE-HAW

Rodeo coverage inside
Page 8

UTMPACER.COM

THE PACER

Chambers, fee rule the day

High turnout favors athletics, Student Voice

Will York

Fairy tales talk about Cinderella's persistence, but UTM Student Government Association leaders have a new fairy tale to talk about.

After handily losing last year's SGA presidential election to incumbent James Orr, Erin Chambers turned her fortunes around and defeated Becky Dykes in last Wednesday and Thursday's student elections and will soon be sworn in as UTM's next student body president. Additionally, a proposal to increase student fees to benefit UTM's athletic programs passed student muster.

Chambers, representing the Student Voice Party, garnered 810 votes, or 67 percent of votes cast, to defeat Dykes, who ran with the YOUTM Party. Dykes collected 399 votes, according to preliminary results from SGA Election Commissioner Allison Martinez.

Chambers said she is "extremely excited" about being sworn in as president. "I have a great group of senators and a great political party to thank for my success, in addition to everyone who made their student voice heard," she said.

She said her vision for SGA is to have so many people come to Senate meetings that SGA would be forced to change the location of meetings.

Chambers attributed this year's successful presidential bid to better preparedness than the campaign she



Above, members of the Skyhawk football team vote in this year's SGA elections, which included a referendum on an increase to the athletics fee. Erin Chambers, right, was named president-elect Thursday night.

Election 2007

President	Board of Trustees
Chambers 810	McGruder 637
Dykes 399	Busman 513
Secretary-General	Martin 506
Kosta 692	Lewis 493
Krakenbrink 510	Mallari 419
Athletics fee increase	
Yes 812	
No 463	

ran last year.

"This year a lot of things were different for me. I had grown a lot and matured, especially in learning how government runs."

Meanwhile, the referendum to raise student fees

by \$50 per semester passed by a 812-463 vote, with about 64 percent of voters favoring the athletics fee increase.

With student approval, the increase, originally pro-

posed by Athletics Director Phil Dane and referred to a student vote by SGA, now goes to Chancellor Nick Dunagan for approval. From there, it goes to the

— See 'SGA' on Page 9



UTM considers future with four finalists for chancellor job

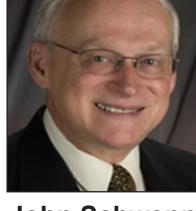
From a pool of nearly 70 applicants, the four finalists for UTM's chancellor position

were on campus last week and Monday to meet with students, university officials and community members.

The chancellor's position will be vacated in June by retiring Chancellor Nick Dunagan.



Thomas Rakes



John Schwenn



Kaylene Gebert



Roosevelt Newson

Rakes is currently the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UTM.

Concerning UT's "fUTure" integration campaign, Rakes said UTM is closely associated with UT's name recognition, and the campaign will help bring more value to UTM degrees.

He suggested graduated compensation for the lottery scholarship. Instead of completely taking away students' scholarships, Rakes suggested the state enacting a graduated program, with higher GPA's garnering higher awards.

Rakes wants "better dorms, cleaner campuses and cleaner classrooms" for UTM.

He said he'd like to see higher involvement from alumni, not just for their money, but for their input.

He says his biggest asset is connection with students.

Schwenn is the vice chancellor for academic affairs at Emporia State University in Kansas.

With a student body of 6,400, he said Emporia State shares many things in common with UTM. He said Kansas recently went through an integration process similar to the "fUTure" campaign.

Schwenn said hiring diverse faculty is necessary to provide a diverse learning environment.

He acknowledged UTM's strong agriculture program, but said several other academic programs seem to have strengths that can be elevated.

Schwenn said Emporia's biggest strength is being student-centered, something he said he'd bring to UTM.

He advocates undergraduate research and service-learning. He also favors holding forums and polls to gauge student opinion.

According to the projected calendar from the special chancellor search committee, the candidates will meet with UT system President John Petersen from April 18-24, with Petersen's announcement coming May 1. Petersen will consider the search committee's recommendations when making his decision.

Gebert is the executive vice president and provost at Middle Tennessee State University.

She worked for several years with the Tennessee Board of Regents as their assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Gebert envisions a "university universe," which serves as a testing ground for world concepts and theories. She used the universe analogy as her basis for needing diversity in higher education.

"We need to position ourselves as a regional comprehensive institution," Gebert said.

She said her best attribute is having a strong work ethic and making decisions based on clearly defined criteria.

Gebert said the university might be well-served to limit the number of students admitted to better accommodate growth.

She added all components of the university should work together to bring about the best learning experience possible for students.

Newson is the vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of North Alabama.

He said UTM shares many of the problems UNA has, such as the number of students who tend to go home on weekends for lack of things to do.

He said, "My door is open all the time. Students are welcome to come in."

Newson said he advocates student transparency. He also stressed career awareness and development.

As far as diversity, he said new, innovative ideas are needed to bring varying perspectives. For instance, he previously provided transportation for students to go to church in cities outside the university where he worked. He advocates adding more courses and enhancing graduates' quality.

TUESDAY WEATHER

72 49

Tomorrow, expect a chance of showers with a high of 66 and low of 40. Thursday, sunny and pleasant.

INSIDE

Viewpoints	2
Editorial	2
News	3
Bulletin Board	4
Police Report	4
Arts & Entertainment	5
Technology	7
Sports	8

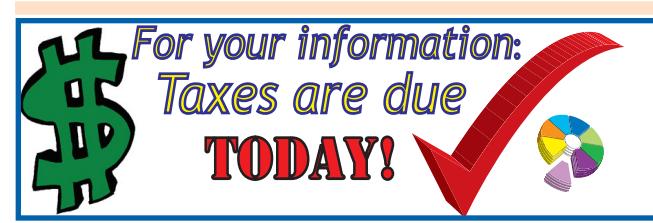
ROUND UP THE ... FISHES

4 Unlikely pairing of rodeo and fish benefits student.

HELLO, HALO

7 Columnist previews next addiction for XBox console: Halo 3.

JUST BECAUSE



THE PACER

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Viewpoints

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utmpacer.com/lettertotheeditor

Page 2

Our View

Editorial:

New government, beginning

The Pacer would like to congratulate Erin Chambers and the Student Voice party for their win in the SGA elections. Change can definitely be for the better, and, with a new president and Senate, we hope that they can approach SGA and UTM with fresh ideas and a fresh outlook.

We also wish her, her party and the entire newly elected Senate the best of luck with dealing with university politics and being an effective voice of the students.

Chambers and the Student Voice have an opportunity to bring new ideas to SGA and UTM

from their predecessors' mistakes. The SGA should be focused on the betterment of students and the university.

Sometimes, politicians forget how they came to power. When that happens, people start feeling the effects of a government who does not have their best interests in mind when making decisions.

We hope that the new government never forgets ultimately why they were voted

into power, and that in all bills and endeavors, they have UTM and the students' interests at heart.

The Pacer expects a strong relationship between the student government and the students who put them in power. The students' vote for their election was a vote of confidence, and we hope that the new SGA president and her Senate does not do anything that would cause UTM students to lose that confidence in their government.

THE PACER

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Opinions expressed in personal columns are those of the writers and may not reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole. Editorials are written by members of the Editorial Board, with contributions from other students, campus administrators or community members on an as-issue basis.

The Pacer invites student organizations to submit press releases at least two weeks ahead of an event. We cannot guarantee the publication of any submitted letter, release or news story.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Story ideas or news tips may be e-mailed to pacer@utm.edu or presented at our weekly staff meetings, held at 5:15 p.m. every Tuesday during the semester. If you are unable to attend these meetings, please contact the Executive Editor to arrange a separate meeting.

The Pacer welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor at 314 Gooch Hall, Martin, TN 38238, through e-mail at pacer@utm.edu or via our Web site at <http://pacer.utm.edu/write/>. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 250 words. Letters must be signed and contain the name, major and hometown of the author, as well as contact information. All submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling and brevity. Publication preference will be given to letters of less than 250 words. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Columns or Guest Commentaries should be no longer than 750 words and will require a photo of the author. Publication is based on relevance and quality of the issue and publication is subject to the discretion of the Editorial Board.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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Contents may not be reprinted without written consent of the Executive Editor.

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OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO EVERYONE AT
VIRGINIA TECH



Athletics Director thanks students for their vote



Phil Dane
Director of
Athletics

On behalf of the UTM athletics family I want to express my appreciation to the students who voted in favor of the referendum for an increase in the athletics activity fee. I respect the reservations registered by those who opposed the increase, and our athletics staff will work hard to address those reservations by being good stewards of the funding generated by this increase.

I am very pleased that our student body sent a clear statement of their position on this matter. We say that athletics exists at UTM to enhance the total collegiate experience. When the students vote almost 2 to 1 to impose a \$50 fee per semester fee on themselves to help athletics be more competitive, that seems to indicate they believe in the importance of athletics to our campus culture.

I appreciate Chancellor Dunagan allowing me the opportunity to make a presentation to the Student Government Association Senate. I want to thank SGA President, James Orr, for the professional manner in which he helped me navigate the process of presenting this issue to the SGA Senate, and I appreciate the Senate for getting this on the ballot in the SGA election.

Certainly I am excited about how this will help address needs for operating budgets, equipment, travel, recruiting, staffing, and facilities, but I'm even more excited about what this says about UTM.

We tell prospective students, faculty and staff that UTM is a unique place where we try to make everyone feel like they are part of a family. I really believe this vote confirms that statement.

Referenda like this have been soundly defeated recently at other institutions, specifically UT Chattanooga and East Tennessee State University, and UTM has bucked that trend. Early in this process there were a lot of naysayers who laughed at our chances of getting the referendum passed. But I said to those people that I really thought we could get this done because UTM is different, if we approached it the

right way. I think we were able to do that because our student-athletes, staff, and coaches make it a priority to know students outside the athletic department through academics, social and professional fraternities and sororities, public service, church involvement, etc. UTM is a special place, and I really believe this is another confirmation of that fact.

I also believe this vote and the margin of the vote is a tribute to the success of our football team last fall. Our students and community were "fired up" throughout that season, and I think we sold them on the notion that we could replicate that success in other sports if we could get more financial support from them.

We've had championships in other sports, but it's a cultural reality that we must succeed in foot-

ball and basketball to fully achieve our athletics mission. Because of funding constraints we've been forced to limit our funding in sports other than football and basketball. Certainly all sports will benefit from the revenue this fee will create, but baseball, softball, and soccer will benefit from some badly needed facility improvements, and selected sports will have assistant coaches for the first time.

Once again, I want to thank the individual students who voted for this activity fee. After analyzing the voting results, it's very obvious that many students from every college on our campus (other than student-athletes) voted for this increase.

I appreciate the financial commitment they are willing to make. I take financial stewardship very seriously, and I pledge to them that this funding will be distributed in the manner I described in my original proposal and that it will be stretched as far as possible.

People will search for meaning regarding shootings

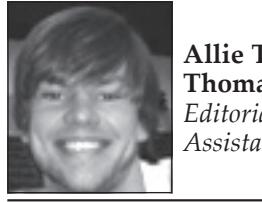
act with, seemingly, no motive.

This leads us to perceive the truth in different ways.

People ask 'How could this happen?'

But nothing can, or ever will, reveal the higher secrets into how it happened. As journalists, we find truth in as much as we can, and we provide the who, what, when, where, why, but only sometimes how, and that is the best we can do.

Many will be looking for answers after 32 students were slaughtered early yesterday morning. The



Allie T. Thomas
Editorial
Assistant

answers, however, may lie in finding what you enjoy in life—that way you will ensure for yourself a happy life.

Consider: the students who died were on a plot of land set aside for higher learning. Therefore, they were in college in order to pursue a life of happiness and now they are naturally

on their way to a happier place, for "good" or "bad"—regardless of their various interpretations of good and evil.

The counter statement to that is found in Genesis 3:19 where it alludes that we follow a cycle of "ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

Depending on where you look, evidence can be made for each claim.

The good news is that surely we can all agree that these killings were, in one form or another, evil, and faith is found in hoping the sun will rise tomorrow for us to enjoy another day.

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Next Door to Bradley Books

New secretary general discusses plans for SGA future

Wendy Elliott
Staff Writer

Now that students' ballots have been cast and the votes are in, Amelia Kosta of Martinis is set to become UTM's SGA secretary general. Mere days before her inauguration takes place, she lets students know what to expect from those they've elected.

Q: How do you feel about last week's elections? What was campaigning like? What would you do differently if given the chance?

A: I feel like things went really well, although campaigning was stressful. All of us woke up really early to get things done and stayed working late into the night to be able to meet with individuals that couldn't meet with us during the day, such as athletes with busy schedules. In the end, it was worth it to see so many students turn out to vote in record numbers in terms of SGA elections. What would I do differently? I would have worked to do something more interpersonal when students stopped by campaign tables to



Kosta

discuss issues.

Q: In the past few weeks, UTM students learned about the different platforms of opposing parties YOUTM and Student Voice. How do members of both parties plan to synchronize the differing goals to best represent the student body?

A: I feel like both parties have agreed we (SGA) need to be better about student relations with our organization. We need to get SGA out there and working for the student body. Lots of students don't even really know what SGA is about and what we are trying to accomplish for students. They need to know that we're here for them.

Q: In last week's election, the referendum to increase the athletic fee passed almost 2-1 among voting UTM students. Members of your political party said that if this happened, they would support the decision. Does this

offer still stand?

A: Yes, it definitely still stands. The reason my party decided to call ourselves "Student Voice" is because we want to reflect what the students have to say, no matter what. The students are in favor of the athletic fee increase and we will stand by our word. That's why we as a party didn't go either way before we knew for certain what students wanted, and now the organization as a whole will support the outcome.

Q: What should UTM students expect from SGA in the upcoming year?

A: Expect a better SGA-student body relationship, plus a better relationship between our school and University of Tennessee schools in terms of student governments. Before I ran for secretary general, I was chairperson of Multicultural Affairs. Now that I'm having to leave that position to my successor, I will pass on lots of ideas that will hopefully help international students during their stay here at UTM. International forums I attended

showed me what many students wanted and gave me many ideas that won't be forgotten. Campus diversity is still my passion within SGA.

Q: And one not-so-serious question just for fun: what was the most interesting experience you had during your time campaigning that you'd like to share?

A: Getting to know my fellow members of the Student Voice party. Before the campaigning began, we didn't know very much about each other except each other's background with SGA. Together, we teamed up to represent students in a great way - we're a very diverse party, all from various majors and departments. Since the campaign, we're very close now that we've experienced everything as a group.

Along with SGA President-elect Erin Chambers, Vice President-elect Grayson Uldrich, members of the newly elected Board of Trustees and the senators who represent each college, Kosta will be inaugurated this Friday, April 20.

Campus to mark annual Day of Silence

Rachel Rogers
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Tomorrow, you may notice that the UTM campus is a little on the quiet side. Nothing has gone wrong. Tomorrow is the Day of Silence.

According to www.dayofsilence.org, the first Day of Silence was celebrated at the University of Virginia in 1996. On this day, many students across the country will remain silent throughout the day to "protest the discrimination, harassment and abuse -- in effect, the silencing -- faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and their allies in school."

Here on campus, the UTM ALLIES, a "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight organization that believes in the elimination of discrimination in all its forms" according to their Web site, plan on celebrating the day with a list of activities.

"This is at least the sixth year that ALLIES has participated in the Day of Silence," says Morgan Greenhaw, president of ALLIES. "This year, the Tennessee Equity Project is backing it up and bringing in reporters to cover it." The vow of silence will begin at 8 a.m. Participating members will hand out



Members of UTM ALLIES discuss the upcoming Day of Silence at their April 11 meeting.

cards explaining why they are not speaking.

"In the past we've had both good and bad feedback," says Greenhaw. "We sometimes have professors that don't approve of this. But we've informed a lot of the professors about it, and they've agreed to set up 'safe zones' tomorrow."

At 6, they will host a Breaking the Silence Rally. As the clock chimes six o'clock, all those who have been silent during the day will make a lot of noise.

"We'll also hold a candlelight vigil and a non denominational prayer," said Greenhaw. "We'll also give people a chance to tell stories."

Another way that ALLIES is trying to break the silence is by producing a publication that they hope to make annually.

"It's called Queer Experiences," says Mattie Davenport, a junior English major from White House, Tenn. "The first issue came out last spring, and cop-

ies of it can be found in the Special Collections section of the library. It's a sort of Day of Silence thing. People are able to speak out through writings."

A table will be set up in the UC today to hand out information and promote the Day of Silence. For more information on the Day of Silence, go to www.dayofsilence.org. For more info on the ALLIES, go to <http://www.utm.edu/organizations/allies/>

Ford, an assistant professor of Nursing. "TSI gave me an opportunity to interact with other professionals and discover innovative ideas for the classroom."

UTM faculty who attended the institute along with Briones and Ford were Dr. Mary Lemons, professor of Management; Dr. Rosemary Effiong, assistant professor of Chemistry; and Dr. Amy Simmons, assistant professor of Music.

Professor wins prestigious award

Betty H. Rasberry, a retired UTM Social Work professor, recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for her long history of professional commitment to and support of human services at the national, state and local levels.

After retiring from 30 years in state service and 12 years in independent practice as a licensed clinical social worker, she continues to sit on related boards and councils.

Rasberry, a native of Dyer County, relocated from the Tennessee Department of Human Services in Nashville, where she served in staff development and training, to UTM, where she established and headed the baccalaureate degree program in social work, one of the first in West Tennessee. During this period, she contracted with the TSU Center of Excellence for Research and Policy, wherein she founded and taught throughout the country the Social Services Competency Based Training, which won approval by the National Head Start Bureau for family service workers.



Rasberry

Commission on the onset of her career, Rasberry has been involved with numerous social work-related organizations, including the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, Northwest Tennessee Association of Health Care Social Workers, Area Agencies on Aging, Tennessee Children and Youth, and Tennessee Department of Correction. In the 1970s, she was instrumental in establishing the Social Services Department at Martin Volunteer Hospital and is known extensively in West Tennessee for her consultation in medical social services. Additionally, she has been a sought-after speaker on numerous topics, both locally and nationally.

Rasberry holds the singular distinction of having served as president of both the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare and the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Fishing rodeo hooks kids into outdoor fun

Zane Gresback
Assis. Sports Editor

The UTM Wildlife Society held the first Fishing Rodeo at Pacer Pond Saturday morning. Children ages 5-12 were encouraged to compete in a fishing competition. Participants were given poles to keep as well as an event t-shirt. Bait was also provided by the Wildlife Society.

The cost to participate

was \$12. Boys and girls competed to catch the most fish with each winner receiving a new bicycle as grand prize.

Proceeds from the event were raised to help support UTM Wildlife Society member, Brad Wheat, who was diagnosed with the bone marrow disease, Aplastic Anemia. "We wanted to raise money to help Brad and his family with medical expenses," said Wildlife

Society President Nick Luper. Luper said that he was happy with the amount of money raised.

The event was also meant to promote the joys of the outdoors for kids.

Though the weather on Saturday was less than ideal for everyone who participated, the event was a success. "Anytime you can get kids involved with fishing and the outdoors, it is a success," said Luper.

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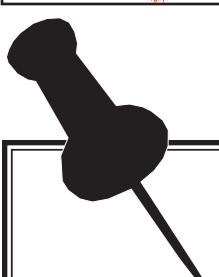
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Campus Bulletin Board

The Pacer provides this space free of charge to campus clubs and organizations that wish to promote events or offerings. Items to appear in **The Pacer's "Campus Bulletin Board"** section must be submitted at least a week ahead of the event, either by e-mail to pacer_news@utm.edu or by dropping off a flier and press release to 314 Gooch Hall. Preference is given by event date closest to printing and by order received. Please note that submission does not necessarily guarantee printing. Call (731) 881-7780 for more information.

Open Forum Bible Study

The Spring Forum is exploring this semester's topic: The Gospel of Salvation & The Power of Christ. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday in UC 209. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings.

BeanSwitch

BeanSwitch meetings are held every Thursday at 5:15 p.m. in HU 209 (Writing Center). Everyone is invited to attend these meetings.

Tri-Beta

Tri-Beta is holding their third annual Poster Presentation of Science Papers on April 26. The

presentations will be from noon to 2 p.m. in Brehm Hall. Titles and authors for posters are due by April 24 by 5 p.m. to Dr. Wilkins.

Join Psi Chi

If you are a psychology major or minor with an overall GPA of 3.0 and a psychology GPA of 3.2, then consider joining. As long as you have had 9 hours of psychology classes and you are currently enrolled in a psychology class, then you are in! Pick up an application in the psychology department at the end of the hall on the third floor.

Talk Time

Talk Time is an informal opportunity for students to practice their conversational skills in a

comfortable environment. Topics of discussion include current news, entertainment, culture, grammatical concepts, literature and many other subjects. All are welcome. Meetings are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in HU 209 (Writing Center).

Native American Convention

The Tennessee Native American Convention will host a Meet and Greet with the West Tennessee candidates for Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs on April 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Legislative Chambers in the UC.

Pacer Meetings

Want to write for the student newspaper? Pacer meetings are every Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. in

Gooch 316.

Upcoming Campus Interviews

The following employment opportunities can be sought: Wells Fargo Financial. Thursday, April 19, 2007. Positions: Credit Manager. Degree: Any Business Related Field. Locations available: Nashville and Jackson Tennessee. Only 2007 graduates please.

Student Art Show

UTM's Annual Student Art Show reception will be held on April 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Lobby.

Wednesday Forum

A Wednesday Forum will be held in the UC 125 titled "Final

Police Report

The information contained in this report is taken directly from public records distributed by the UTM Department of Public Safety. DPS can be contacted by calling (731) 881-7777.

8:11 a.m., April 9

Fine Arts

Reports of damage to university property. Investigation continues.

10:33 a.m., April 9

Student Health

Report of a subject having a seizure and an officer and emergency personnel responded. Subject was transported to EMS.

7:45 a.m., March 27

Lot 12

Mr. Nathan B. Browning was issued a citation for leaving the scene of an accident. General's Sessions Court.

11:56 a.m., April 9

Humanities

Report of a subject that had fallen and an officer transported the subject to the hospital.

4:30 p.m., April 9

Practice Field

Report of a subject that had been injured and an officer and emergency personnel responded. Subject was transported by EMS.

8:00 a.m., April 10

Moody St.

Jeana L. Berry was issued citations for proof of insurance and failure to yield to pedestrians. General Sessions Court.

10:01 a.m., April 10

UTM

Subject reported loss of their university keys.

11:44 a.m., April 10

University St.

Dorothy A. Blackburn was issued a citation for speeding. City Court.

9:20 a.m., April 11

Lot 3

Report a disturbance and the officer referred the subject to Student Affairs.

9:35 a.m., April 11

Lot 3

Vehicle towed due to excessive tickets.

1:38 p.m., April 11

University St.

Mohammed Dakhel was issued citations for registration violation and

driving without a license. General Sessions Court.

2:26 p.m., April 11

Fine Arts

Report of a student that had been injured and an officer responded and transported the subject to student health.

5:05 p.m., April 11

Farm Rd.

Jacob D. Forbes was issued a citation for failure to yield to pedestrians. City Court.

2:00 a.m., April 12

Lot 10

Cody T. Gilliam was referred to Student Affairs to be placed on the first offenders list for alcohol violation.

8:07 a.m., April 12

Lee St.

Deidre R. Jackson was issued a citation for stop sign violation. City Court.

8:36 a.m., April 12

Lot 19

Vehicle towed due to excessive tickets.

5:24 p.m., April 12

Ellington

Subject reported theft of personal property.

6:56 p.m., April 13

Ag Pavilion

Report of a subject that was injured and an officer and emergency personnel responded and the subject was transported by EMS.

3:38 p.m., April 14

Browning

Shiquitta D. Hymon was cited into General Sessions Court for theft of property.

12:51 p.m., April 15

University Center

Report of the fire alarm sounding and an officer and the fire department responded and reported that the air vents were malfunctioning and the alarm was reset.

9:50 p.m., April 15

Browning

Subject reports that they are being harassed. Investigation continues.



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The Spring Forum is exploring this semester's topic: The Gospel of Salvation & The Power of Christ. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday in UC 209. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings.

BeanSwitch

BeanSwitch meetings are held every Thursday at 5:15 p.m. in HU 209 (Writing Center). Everyone is invited to attend these meetings.

Tri-Beta

Tri-Beta is holding their third annual Poster Presentation of Science Papers on April 26. The

presentations will be from noon to 2 p.m. in Brehm Hall. Titles and authors for posters are due by April 24 by 5 p.m. to Dr. Wilkins.

Join Psi Chi

If you are a psychology major or minor with an overall GPA of 3.0 and a psychology GPA of 3.2, then consider joining. As long as you have had 9 hours of psychology classes and you are currently enrolled in a psychology class, then you are in! Pick up an application in the psychology department at the end of the hall on the third floor.

Talk Time

Want to write for the student newspaper? Pacer meetings are every Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. in

Gooch 316.

Upcoming Campus Interviews

The following employment opportunities can be sought: Wells Fargo Financial. Thursday, April 19, 2007. Positions: Credit Manager. Degree: Any Business Related Field. Locations available: Nashville and Jackson Tennessee. Only 2007 graduates please.

Student Art Show

UTM's Annual Student Art Show reception will be held on April 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Lobby.

Wednesday Forum

A Wednesday Forum will be held in the UC 125 titled "Final

Exams: Sooner than you Think" from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Mike Munkel BBQ

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Rachel Rogers, A&E Editor • E-mail: pacer_features@utm.edu

Opera a wonderful success, despite a few problems

Brian Sullivan
Staff Writer

The Lyric Opera Theatre production of "The Old Maid and the Thief" by Menotti took place in the Harriet Fulton Theatre last Saturday and Sunday in Fine Arts.

While the play was sweet and fun, with the plot of an old widow trying to find love once again and her maid trying to be rid of her duties as a maid by taking in a homeless young man, a character stood out above the rest. Erin Horton, who played the maid, was outstanding. This young actress stood out as not only the best, but she also carried the play on her back. When she allowed her voice to soar she showed why she was in this opera. Not only did she have the voice for opera, but she also had acting skills and confidence to perform in front of an audience.

The main problem with the play Saturday was the fact that the actors seemed like they were scared of the audience. Several of the actors couldn't get their voice to carry past the

Memphis in May: worth more than hearing about

Danika Parris
Staff Writer

Do you want something diverse and exciting to do for the month of May? If so, you should take a trip to Memphis. May is quickly approaching, so people are not only looking forward to graduation, but the many activities that are available in Memphis in May.

Memphis in May hosts some of the city's largest events. If you have never been a part of these festivities, you should definitely make 2007 your year. There are several things going on all at once. If you love to shop, there are vendors galore that have flavors from all around the world. You may run into a stilt walker, see international food stops and clothes and accessories from everywhere. Some of the most known activities are the Beale Street Music Festival, the World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest and the Sunset Symphony.

May 4-6, Memphis in May will be hosting the Beale Street Music Festival. If you have never heard good music from the south, this is your place to relax and enjoy yourself. At this particular festivity, music lovers from around the globe gather on Beale Street to celebrate this vital heritage, this deep river of sound. For three magical days, there will be four big stages that will hold more than 60 top artists. This will be one outrageous party on 33 acres that overlooks the Mighty Mississippi. Blues, rock, gospel, R&B, alternative and soul will all provide a musical variety to those that will be there. If you want to attend this event, you better get your tickets now, because with a growing fan base and world-wide coverage, this event is sure to sell out again.

Another thing that Memphis is known for is its barbecue. May 17-19, one of the largest pork barbecue contests on the planet will be held in Memphis. On these few days, the sweetest-smelling cloud will hover over Memphis and contestants will literally eat, sleep, and live for the pig. With more than \$61,050 in prizes, if you have the meanest cooking technique, why wouldn't you? "Grillmasters" and "goodtimers" will

descend on Tom Lee Park in downtown Memphis for serious competition that's seriously fun. Even the grills dress up for this party like fire trucks, airplanes, piggy banks, pot bellied stoves; you name it, it's probably there.

More than 90,000 pork lovers from around the globe, from Australia, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Estonia, Canada, France, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand and the United Kingdom, gather together to testify about their special sauces, rubs, ribs and everything else that is included in the "Pigdom." And, there's the Sharp Stage, the site of world-class musical entertainment and the Ms. Piggie competition (grown men in snouts and tutus). You'll see funny faces, famous faces, and might end up having your face on one of those special reports on NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, Southern Living Network, PBS, A&E, TBS, Gourmet Magazine, Food & Wine, Martha Stewart Living TV, or one of many other media reports.

Memphis in May isn't strictly all about fun, it also produces extensive education, international, and economic programs for the city. Memphis in May International Festival is more than its events. It's also a not-for-profit, community-based organization that contributes to the economic growth of the community, fosters civic pride, promotes awareness of Memphis heritage and builds international relationships.

In a nutshell, Memphis in May generates more than \$30 million in economic impact, improves the quality of life in the region, promotes tourism like no other event in the city, develops diversity and cultural pluralism and remains Memphis' largest and most dynamic consumer event time and time again. The festival is governed by a board of directors and operated by a full-time professional staff.

As you can see, Memphis in May will be a great place to let your hair down and enjoy some things that the south has to offer. For more information you can visit: <http://memphisinmay.org/home.html>. Don't be the one hearing about it, be the one that is talking about it!

first few rows of seats. The beginning of the play was lost to the mumbling of the first actresses. The old widow that owned the house where the play took place was far too quite to be on stage, and the homeless man seemed like he was far too shy to even be homeless. He began to open up and use his full voice as the play went on but the little old widow did not. Even with the problem of volume the play still did a wonderful job of getting the scenes across to the audience. The set for the play did its job of causing the imagination of the audience to run wild. The whole point of a set is to add more ideas for the audience so their imagination is inspired to build a realistic visual of the scene. This play did a wonderful job of not using much set but using just enough to set the scene. The set consisted of a dining room with a fire place, dining table, couch, and a plate shelf. Then there was a bedroom with a bed and a door to symbolize a new room. The only other set pieces were a flat that spelled "Liquor Store" and an old bench.

This play was wonderful and the director and actors should be pleased with the performance. The opera could even do an encore and it should be well attended.

Student has much on his plate: fatherhood, school, work, music

Christopher Stanback
Staff Writer

In the midst of senior projects, military duties and fraternity obligations, Marcus "L'Spade" Johnson still strives to make an impact on the entertainment industry.

Johnson is a loyal father of one son, a senior Communications major with an emphasis in broadcasting and is minoring in Graphic Design. He is the vice president of the Kappa Omicron chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, president of the NPHC and corporal in the Tennessee National Guard.

"What sets me apart from everyone else is that I have seen every aspect of life. I grew up in the 'hood,' I have seen the war zones and I am completing college. I know my goals and I know what I have to do to achieve them," said Johnson.

Upon completion of his deployment, Johnson returned to UTM with the ambition of graduating and expanding his reach as a disc jockey and music producer. Since his return, Johnson has been featured in over 200 events.

He started his career at the age of 15 in Memphis. He began producing mix-tapes and making tracks for local groups in his area. After his deployment in 2003, Johnson invested his earned income from the military into a professional high-grade au-

dio production studio. This enabled him to produce his first album, "Hustling and Scuffling."

"When I made my first album, I was just happy to have something in the stores. But I quickly learned that just because having an album in stores does not mean people will buy it," said Johnson.

While in Martin, Johnson has made an impact by offering a unique style with a reasonable price in relation to his music and being a DJ.

Johnson has compiled a quality book of clients. He has produced a track for "Skinny Pimp," opened a show for "Project Pat" and is the executive of Wave Lab studios in Memphis.

Presently, Johnson is putting out a steady stream of "mix-cd's (Street Hits) and has just signed a contract to DJ at Club Rockafella in Memphis. He is also working on his solo album titled, "Common Knowledge," which is expected to be released early this fall.

Johnson plans to become an on-air radio personality and increase his income to become a better father to provide for his son.

"I have learned sometimes in life that there will be stumbling blocks, obstacles and haters. But the only person who can stop me is me. I'll see you at the top."

Popular author dead at 84

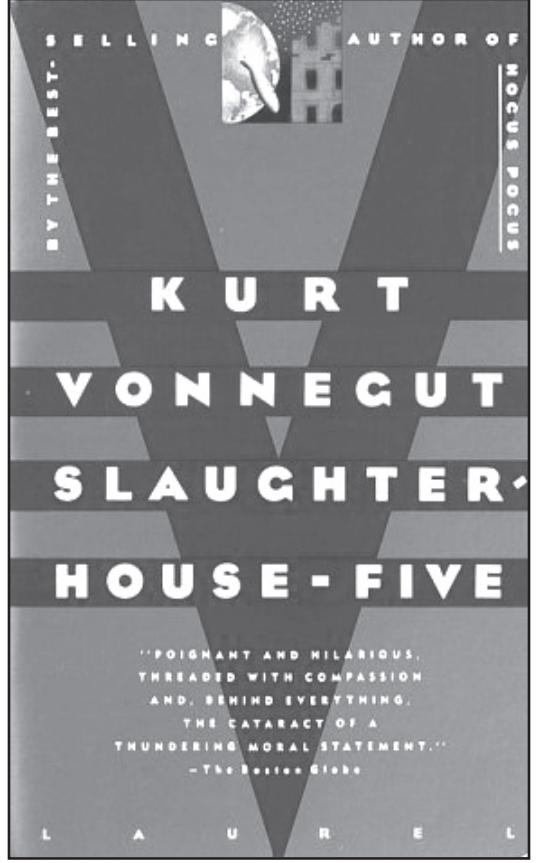
David Hampton
Editorial Assistant

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., satirical novelist and essayist, died last week at 84. His wife said the death was due to brain injuries that resulted from a fall that took place in their Manhattan home, for which he had been hospitalized. He published his first novel, *Player Piano*, in 1952. His latest major work is a collection of essays entitled *Man Without a Country* (2005).

Vonnegut's 1969 novel, *Slaughterhouse-Five, or The Children's Crusade: A Duty Dance with Death*, is often considered his most defining work. It is based on the author's experiences as a soldier in WWII and melds these experiences with humor and elements of science fiction. The novel takes form as the story of Billy Pilgrim and involves time travel and alien abduction, but most importantly, it relates to the reader a description of the fire bombing of Dresden, Germany during World War II. In the novel, Billy Pilgrim is there beneath the city in a subterranean slaughterhouse as the city is incinerated.

Vonnegut himself was in an underground slaughterhouse being held by Germans as a prisoner of war when the city was destroyed, and emerged to see the ruins of the city which he describes in the novel as looking like the surface of the moon. When this novel was published, it was something of an exposé, bringing to the public eye for the first time the details of this "massacre." Vonnegut explains in the novel that more people were killed in this nearly unknown bombing (which used only traditional military weaponry) than died in the atomic blasts of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined.

In the author's foreword, a very personal section of the book, he tells the reader that he raised his children to "never be involved in any massacres." In this foreword he also describes a visit to a friend and fellow WWII veteran's home to discuss what will be his "famous book" about the fire bombing of Dresden, and his friend's wife appears angry with him for reasons that aren't clear. When he asks her what's wrong, she tells him that these wars are always fought by children, but in retrospect the soldiers are always described glamorously and as men. He promises his friend's



wife that there will be no men in his book, hence "The Children's Crusade."

Another facet of *Slaughterhouse-Five* is the character of Billy Pilgrim, who is a difficult young man who is thrown into the violent climate of WWII in Europe. He represents a level of humanity and gentleness that stands in stark contrast to his surroundings. Billy seems to be the least likely candidate to survive the war and make it home, but he continues to endure while many tougher and more serious soldiers around him are killed.

When the brutality and death Billy encounters, in both the war and in his normal life, is described in the story, the narrator always concludes the description with the same simple statement: "So it goes." Christopher Buckley, author of the 1994 novel *Thank You for Smoking*, said that this simple phrase "...became kind of a catchphrase during the time of Vietnam...it was the 'whatever' of its day."

Vonnegut was named Humanist of the Year by the American Humanist Association in 1992. He also served as the organization's honorary president until his death.

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Sixteen Minutes: Part X



Stephen Outten
www.StephenOutten.com

Time passed slowly from my arrest until I was released. While the police were finger-printing me and taking my mug shot, I kept thinking of Anna, and how she had barely been able to walk as we exited the club, and how she was now with James.

After repeated questions and repeated answers, the police finally had to let me go. Even though they didn't believe me when I said that I wasn't a drug dealer, as it turned out, there was nothing in that bag but sugar and salt, most likely thrown together by James in a desperate attempt to get rid of me. The police couldn't keep me.

I took a cab back to the club, but by the time I got there, it was closing down for night. A few remaining guests clambered out into the street, but I didn't see Anna or James. Not wanting to be seen by the bouncer who had thrown me out, I ducked into a nearby alley to wait and see if either Anna or James would come out.

But my hiding place wasn't hidden for long. Loud sirens cracked the thick air, slices of red and white and blue pulling all eyes towards an approaching ambulance. It parked right in front of the club, and four paramedics got out. "She's in the alley!" I heard one of them yell.

They ran into a dark recess between buildings and started searching with flashlights. "I found her!" another paramedic called. They lifted a frail figure from off the ground next to a dumpster and put it on a stretcher. As they approached the well-lit street, a beam fell on the victim's face.

It was Anna.

Unconscious and beaten, with two bloody lines trailing from her nostrils. Part of her shirt had been torn from her body as well, exposing the lower portion of her emaciated torso, highlighting her prominent rib cage, barely moving, if rising and falling gently at all.

Just before they put her in the back, I ran up and said, "I'm with her."

I really shouldn't have started this story. I told you that when you sat down. But I guess I just needed someone to talk to, and what I've told you so far brings you up to speed.

The sun's just starting to rise outside, but Anna's still in one of these rooms. I keep praying that she'll be okay, but the crazy thing is I don't know why. I only met the girl yesterday. There's just something about her. Maybe I just want to find out what happened after James had me arrested. Maybe I just want to find out how this story ends.

Or maybe, against all reason, I'm falling in love with this volatile, beautiful, dangerous girl.

A door opens to the waiting room, and a doctor comes in. He shakes my hand. "Are you Ethan by any chance?"

I nod.

"I thought so. It looks like she's going to be fine. We had to pump her stomach, and she was beaten up pretty badly. She's been awake for a little while. And she keeps asking for you. Follow me, please."

We go into a long hallway with doors on each side. Mothers and fathers and friends and lovers wait in and outside of the rooms, hoping and praying their own prayers of mercy and of miracles.

The doctor opens her door and lets me go in alone. Anna's sitting up, but resting against the back of her bed. The beautiful young girl I met so few hours ago is unrecognizable beneath the swelling. "Hi, Ethan."

I walk over to her bed and sit, taking her IV'd hand in my own. "Hey there."

"I'm sorry, Ethan," she whispers. "About what happened at the club. I didn't realize what I was doing when I texted James. I had no idea," she gulps. "I had no idea it was going to turn out like this. That this was going to happen. And I'm sorry for asking for you. I just didn't have anyone else."

I squeeze her hand gently. "You know what I'm sorry about? I'm sorry that I didn't run into you at the train station before yesterday. And I'm sorry that I left you alone last night." Now I gulp. "Did James do this to you?"

She looks away. "Yeah. We went back upstairs, and he called over some of my friends, and I started taking the edge off again. He kept saying, 'Just a little more, beautiful. Just a little more.' I started to get really groggy, and he said he was going to take me home, which was weird, since he doesn't know where I live. But when he got me outside, he pulled me into the alley and started beating me. Then I woke up here. The doctors say I'll be okay, but that I might not look the same after I heal."

She starts to cry lightly, but it's painful, making her face wince. I'm fairly sure that James called the ambulance. He was the only one who knew where she was. He didn't want to kill her – he just wanted to take away the part of her he'd never had.

The minutes turn into hours, while Anna passes from sleep to consciousness and back again. Every now and then she squeezes my hand with her eyes closed, and I'll tell her stories from my life, stories from before I came to New York. Reporters from newspapers and television pop in occasionally, and I know that this will be front page news tonight.

The doctor says that she'll be able to leave in a day or so, but Anna isn't sure where she's going. I just hope I'm a part of the trip. All she knows that she doesn't want to stay here anymore.

I guess the thing I have to remind myself is that a few select people in this world get fifteen minutes of fame. Anna Monroe happened to get sixteen minutes. She got fifteen minutes to grace the world with her beauty and her charm, and now she gets an extra minute to say goodbye.

But not all goodbyes are bad, though. Perhaps this goodbye will be a hello, at least to me. I was wrong when I told you that this story wasn't a good story. I think that maybe this story is the start of our story, and that maybe someday I'll be able to tell you what's happened from here.

Blades of Glory a great movie for any movie night

Meredith Moore
Staff Writer

It is a safe assumption that any Will Ferrell movie will be entertaining, to say the least, and *Blades of Glory* does not disappoint. The story's premise is shaped around two male figure skaters, Will Ferrell and Jon Heder, who are thrown out of the male figure-skating arena indefinitely after a brawl at an awards ceremony in which both of their characters are tied for a medal. The two go their separate ways for a short while, eventually recon-

necting to become a duo in pair's figure skating.

Ferrell, a comedic sensation and SNL veteran, and relative new-comer Jon Heder, of *Napoleon Dynamite* fame, mesh well in this feel-good comedy about camaraderie and competition. The banter between the two actors is hilariously entertaining and the outrageous, and sometimes awkward, situations they find themselves in throughout the course of the film never cease to entertain.

This is a great film for any outing—girl's night, guy's night, date night, you name it—and is well worth the six-dollar movie ticket.

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Anticipating the release: Halo 3

Matt Cannon
Staff Writer

On May 16, Halo fans all over the gaming universe will breathe a sigh of satisfaction as Bungie finally releases a taste of gaming gold. For those gamers who bought a copy of Crackdown for Xbox 360 or who have won a spot via the "Rules of Three" contest, there will be an opportunity to sample one of the biggest and most anticipated games ever released: Halo 3.

The wait has been a long one for such a widely-loved franchise to utilize the power of next-generation gaming technology, but the wait will be worthwhile when this gem is released for purchase this coming fall. Until then, gamers who are fortunate enough to be on the short-list of beta-testers will have the opportunity to try out the Xbox LIVE multiplayer capabilities of the new game many months before Halo 3's actual release date.

Bungie has stressed the point that the Halo 3 beta will be exactly that: a beta. It is not complete and will only feature a "peek-a-boo" into what the game will truly offer, but some of the game's new features will be playable on the beta version. The Mongoose ATV will be a new vehicle that players will have the chance to take for a spin through three multiplayer levels that will be available for play. These levels are Valhalla, Snowbound, and High Ground. The new machine gun will be usable as well as the new "Brute" spike-grenade, which will function as an anti-personal sticky-bomb for tactical purposes. These are only a shadowing of the many features of the new game. The beta will also have a few flaws, but testers should always keep in mind that this is not a finished product and that any bugs or glitches will be surely ironed out before the game's official release.



Anticipation surrounds the release of Halo 3. Included in certain games, a sample of Halo 3 is available.

this fall.

Some of the new features leaked through various sources on the Internet have players buzzing about the new tactical changes that will take place in the game's final version.

A new grenade-like weapon that the game's main character, Master Chief, uses in the original game-trailer, functions like an impenetrable force-field that will offer momentary respite from enemy onslaughts.

A new human weapon called the "Spartan Laser" will offer long-range accuracy that packs an armor-piercing punch.

The Mongoose ATV will prove to be a counterpart for the enemy light-armor vehicle, which will give players a chance to piggy-back through levels on such multiplayer functions as "Capture-the-Flag." Players will no longer have to guess what their opponent's secondary weapon is, as every player's weaponry will be visible at all times: one weapon in hand and one prominently displayed on the character's back.

One of the most interesting additions to the game will be a "man-launcher." These will be large missile launcher-like stations that player can use to launch grenades, themselves, and even small vehicles through the air at great distances and speeds.

The machine gun from the original Halo will be brought back as well, since the dual-function of the MSGs made it difficult to conduct melee attacks because it caused the player to drop their off-hand weapon to do so. People complained, and Bungie listened, which is what all good companies should do.

These new elements add many different aspects to both online-play and single play. The story is sure to be as rich and engrossing as the first two titles, and perhaps we'll even have a chance to find out what that giant mushroom-monster was all about in this installment. Expect action and intensity from this title, and definitely expect the Flood to be at your doorstep by the coming fall.

Web site of the week

**www.
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.com**

Writing and office tool Web sites

Jay Baker
Assist. News Editor

Web site of the week special: collaborative writing/office tools.

www.thinkfree.com

Thinkfree isn't exactly collaborative writing, but it is extremely useful. It's actually an on-line office suite with alternatives to all the basics from Microsoft (Word, Excel etc.). Thinkfree throws in 1 GB of free storage, the ability to share your documents and collaborate with others and a pretty nifty document viewer plug-in that allows you to open attached files on the Web in Thinkfree.

www.officezilla.com

OfficeZilla is similar to Thinkfree, but is set up in a portal fashion, giving your team/company/organization a Web-based

intranet/extranet. It gives you a calendar, contact manager, message forums, knowledge base, a pop e-mail reader, link/URL sharing, file sharing, chat room, phone message pad and a task manager. Oh yeah, and it's free.

www.writeboard.com

Writeboard is one of the more popular social text editors/wikis. Writeboard allows for fast, free, easy collaborative writing. It's perfect for group papers or projects. One of the better features is the easy roll back ability. One of the shortcomings of collaborative writing is that sometimes people delete something (either through accident or stupidity) that was actually really good. With Writeboard, you can easily view the entire history of the document and go back to recover something that shouldn't have been lost.

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iPod ships 100 millionth unit

Danika Parris
Staff Writer

What do you get when you unveil over 10 new iPods, 4,000 accessories and millions of satisfied consumers? Apple's answer is the shipment of the 100 millionth iPod. Apple said on April 9 that it has recently sold its 100 millionth iPod, marking a major milestone in the product's history.

"At this historic milestone, we want to thank music lovers everywhere for making iPod such an incredible success," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "iPod has helped millions of people around the world rekindle their passion for music, and we're thrilled to be a part of that."

Since introducing the iPod in November 2001, Apple has been extremely successful. The company has unveiled more than 10 new iPod models, which have given consumers a

better variety of the product they have come to love. The music player has also sparked an ecosystem of more than 4,000 accessories, ranging from fashionable cases to speaker systems. More than 70 percent of cars manufactured in the United States in 2007 offer iPod connectivity.

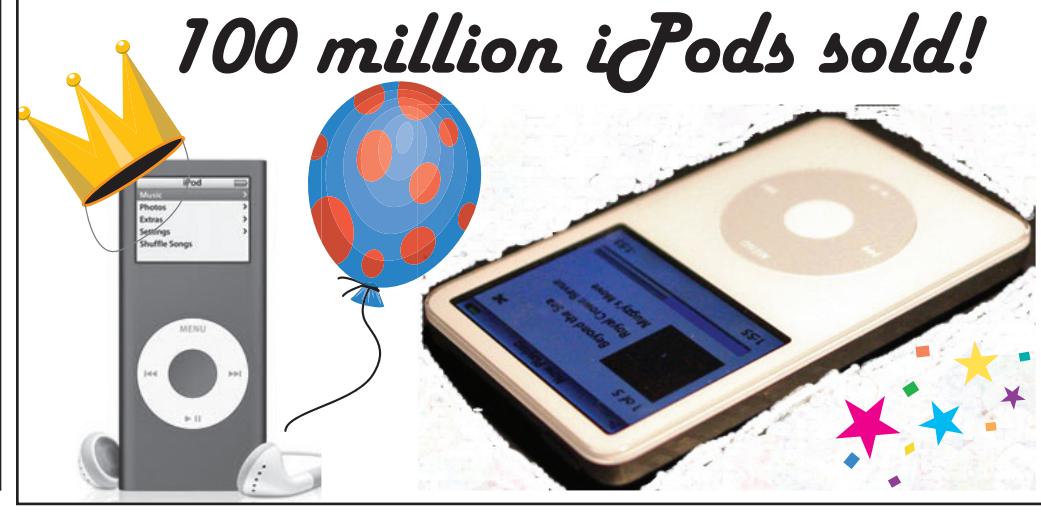
Along with shipping the 100 millionth iPod, the iTunes Store has also been a comparable success, selling more than 2.5 billion songs, over 50 million TV shows and 1.3 million movies, making it the world's most popular online store of digital media. Apple's iTunes Store has seen comparable success in selling items from its catalog of more than 5 million songs, 350 television shows and 400 movies.

Apple's success with the iPod continues despite a plethora of music player competition from other companies, including

Microsoft. The software giant introduced its Zune music player in November 2006, but its sales have not come close to challenging Apple's dominance in the portable music market. Everyone has fallen in love with the iPod, so it is pretty evident that it is here to stay. When you see people working out in the gym or walking to class, you usually see them with an iPod.

iPod fans are now awaiting Apple's iPhone, which combines the functionality and design of the iPod with a cell phone. AT&T's Cingular Wireless is set to begin exclusively selling the iPhone for \$600 in June.

It is evident that Apple made a very wise decision when they chose to introduce their iPod to the market. The proof was in the sale of the 100 millionth iPod.



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Sports

The Pacer • April 17, 2007

Brad Hurt
Sports Editor

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On the Web

pacer_sports@utm.edu
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Page 8

Men finish second, women third in 39th annual UTM rodeo

Brad Hurt
Sports Editor

With its status as the top team in the Ozark Region and one of the top five teams in the nation providing plenty of momentum and confidence, the host Skyhawk men's rodeo team came away with a second place finish in the 39th annual spring rodeo.

In the women's competition, UTM finished third with a total of 225 points.

"I thought we had a real good rodeo," said Skyhawk head coach John Luthi. "I would like to thank the community and the sponsors for all their support."

The Skyhawk cowboys accumulated 600 points to finish behind only the University of West Alabama, which earned 715 points. Their score allowed them to finish ahead of six other schools, including Missouri Valley College, Troy University, the University of Arkansas-Monticello, Southern Arkansas University, North Arkansas College and Arkansas State University.

The teams' overall success resulted from several impressive individual performances, including a sweep of the men's and women's all-around categories.

Junior Ty Atchison took home the men's all-around honor by scoring a total of 240 points. The Jackson, Mo., native scored 163 points to win the saddle bronc riding competition. Additionally, he finished fourth in the team roping competition as the heeler with teammate Boyd Quinley. The pair recorded a time of 24.6 seconds to place fourth behind teams from Arkansas-Monticello, the University of Alabama and Troy State University.

Sophomore Adrienne Vought put her name on the women's all-around honor with a total of 165 points. She also took home first place in the breakaway roping competition with a time of 6.5 seconds. Competitors qualify to win the all-around honor by participating in at least two events.

The Skyhawk women also got a good showing from freshman Molly Alexander, who finished seventh in the barrel racing competition with a time of 14.90 seconds. Lauren Glasco finished third in the breakaway roping with a time of 3.5 seconds.

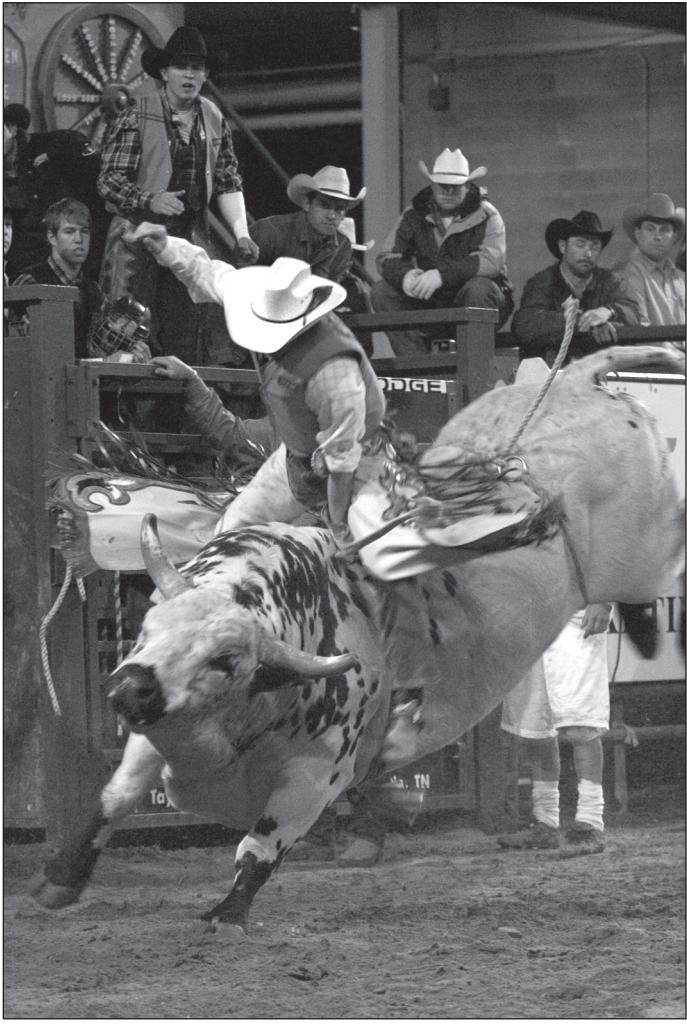
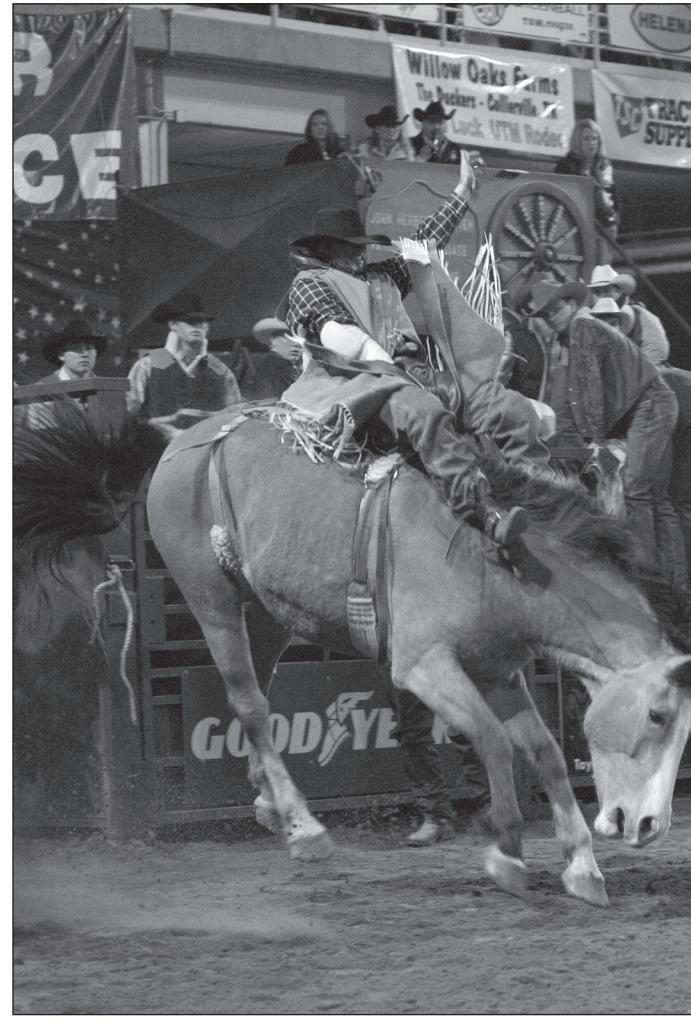
Nikki Bacon and Brittany Duff added to the women's total score by putting up a strong performance in the goat tying event. Bacon finished fourth in the average category with a total score of 16.4 on two runs. Duff finished seventh in the average category, turning in

Joining Atchison in the men's all-around standings were junior John Beckwith, who came in third with 120 points, and senior Whit Ashe, who finished seventh with a total of 40 points.

The team captured the top spots in both the bareback riding average and the saddle bronc. Senior Matt Bright won the bareback riding competition with a score of 163 points. Ross and Russ Ratkowski joined Bright in placing in the category. Russ Ratkowski turned in an 80-point ride before suffering an injury that forced him to miss the championship round.

"I am thankful he is OK," Luthi said.

In the bull riding category freshman Zach Jackson came



Skyhawk participants in the saddle bronc (left) and bull riding (right) competitions hold on for dear life during this weekend's 39th annual spring rodeo at the Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex. The men's team finished with 600 points on the weekend to claim second place behind the University of West Alabama. The women picked up a third-place finish led by sophomore Adrienne Vought, who won the women's all-around competition with 165 points.

in second place with a total of 81 points.

The teams will now turn their attention to preparations for this weekend's competition at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, which is the final competition of the season. They are attempting to lock up spots in the College National Finals to be held in June.

Additionally, individuals are competing for spots in the championships in events including bull riding, calf roping, barrel racing, saddle bronc riding, breakaway roping, goat tying, team roping, steer wrestling and bareback riding.

"We continue to compete well," Luthi said. "We have to take care of business and not worry about anyone else or points. If we take care of ourselves the points will come our way."

The men's team has picked up five first-place finishes this season as they won the first five competitions of the season.

The women have seen their share of struggles this season since opening with a first-place finish at the Missouri

Valley College Rodeo. This weekend's third-place finish was the team's best since finishing third at the Southern Arkansas Rodeo in September.

Besides the action in the ring, the rodeo festivities included many activities for the community. The activities included a pageant, a crawfish supper and a bluegrass performance. Additionally, the Rodeo Booster Club sponsored its annual celebrity scholarship auction.

This year's rodeo represented the final home competition for 13 senior team members, including Ashe, Bacon, Bright, Samantha Bumpus, Kacy Burchett, Colt Clemons, Tyler Fleming, Meredith Jones, Russ Ratkowski, Chris Seiber, Jordon Southern, Andrew Trainor and Kristin Wiseman.

GO SKYHAWKS!

Star Skyhawk linebacker attributes success on the field to higher power

Christopher Stanback
Staff Writer

Every few years a collegiate program recruits an extraordinary student-athlete. Things were no different at UTM.

There are few student athletes who lead by example spiritually, academically and athletically like Markeseo Jackson.

Jackson is a senior Criminal Justice major and Sociology minor from Memphis.

Since arriving in Martin in 2003, Jackson has displayed an array of excellence through his spiritual guidance, academic honors and presence on the football field.

Some of Jackson's accomplishments and recognitions includes the Dean's List, OVC Honor Roll, nomination to the 2006 OVC Academic All-Star team, 2004 Skyhawk football defensive MVP, 2005 preseason all OVC defensive player of the year, 2006 second team all OVC, invitation to the Magnolia Gridiron, a 2006 Buck Buchanan award finalist, administers a weekly bible study in the UC and volunteers at Pathways working with juveniles.

"Some of my challenges at first were trying to prepare myself physically and mentally for summer football training camp. Spiritually, I wanted to find a church home here in Martin. I felt I had gotten home sick

at first," said Jackson.

Jackson has been an ordained minister for about a year at Apostolic Fellowship, in Memphis. Jackson's fiancé had a big impact on his spiritual life. Jackson said that he recognized the mercy of God and learned a lot about him through trials and different tests.

Spiritually, Jackson is going to let God lead him, continue to do God's good will and continue to preach the gospel. Jackson plans to get married in September, attend law school to be a real estate attorney and open up a barbershop.

"I still have goals aimed at making it to the NFL, if it is God's will I will make it happen. This experience in Martin has taught me to endure through the tough times, in the end you will come out with the victory, a good example being the football team."

"When I first got here we had a lot a tough times for a long time, but now we have a conference championship ring. Be grateful for every-

thing you get and take advantage of every opportunity," said Jackson.

Jackson feels that his stance for God is the reason for his success.



Trevor Ruszkowski/UTM Sports Information

Skyhawk senior linebacker Markeseo Jackson displayed great character on and off the field this season. The criminal justice major from Memphis achieved several academic and athletic honors during his career at UTM. Besides his numerous athletic recognitions, Jackson's name appeared on the Dean's List, OVC Honor Roll and a 2006 OVC Academic All-Star

Cross country runs toward excellence

Christopher Stanback
Staff Writer

The weather outside was riddled with clouds, a constant flow of rain and an eccentric chill in the air on this mid-April afternoon.

But for James Thomka, a junior from Chicago, it is just another day on the track. Year round Thomka rises before dawn to begin his running workout that he continues throughout the day as he rises towards the top competition in the OVC. In between workouts Thomka, a Geology major, spends time studying and maintaining the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll. This afternoon was no different for Thomka. On Friday afternoons many students leave for home or catch up on rest or work. Thomka disregards the weather conditions and dedicates his afternoons to running on the track.

The UTM cross-country team features a team loaded with academic honors, ambition, and young bright potential. The program is under the direction of third year head coach, Gordon Sanders. The university dropped the track and field program three years ago so the cross-country program today is an endurance only program.

"Our program offers the unique opportunity for endurance talent to race on all venues, cross-country, road races and track meets," said Sanders.

The team is comprised of a good cohesive group of young student athletes. The team excels in the classroom by leading the athletic department and the conference with the highest team GPA. Even though the program is limited to only recruits in Tennessee, Sanders has comprised a bright group of student athletes. The best athletes on the team are sophomores and freshmen. Sanders also has signed a four and a half minute mile runner who will premiere with the team this fall and that just adds to the young talent.

The team is Memphis based with three student athletes from Cordova, two from Chattanooga, two from Knoxville and one from Bolton. Sanders' recruitment of

Tennessee has expanded over the past few years with the addition of runners from east Tennessee. The Tennessee lottery scholarship enables the team to put together good packages for promising prospects.

The challenge that awaits Sanders and his team is to finish in the top half of the OVC championship. Last season the team was two minutes from that goal but the team is optimistic because everyone is returning. Sanders feels that the program will progress once it develops the local talent. Sanders stresses to his team the importance maintaining a healthy diet by eating foods associated with the food pyramid.

The men, who race for five miles, are presently training at a pace around 50-60 miles per week. The women, who race for three miles, are training at a pace around 40-50 miles per week. The workouts will increase daily after the team disperses at the end of the semester and return to start team practices again in the summer. Presently, Paul Thamess, a sophomore from Knoxville, is clocking the best time for the men while running at a pace of five-and-a-half minutes per mile. Shannon Wall, a sophomore from Chattanooga, is running at a pace of six minutes and 18 seconds.

Thomka feels that the lack of training methods will not be a problem with his teammates because everyone shows the initiative to research the best training and running methods. The team often debates among one another about what the best training and running methods are.

"We are an educated team in regards to running. Each person researches the best method for him/her. We seem to be getting more recruits and we have never had seven healthy runners to compete in a race until now. The competition at practice is now evident," said Thomka.

Everyone associated with the program is ambitious about the direction in which it is headed. The program leads by example in the area of academics and is striving to run past its competition in all areas.

The cross-country team will be in action again at night at the Distance Carnival, held at Vanderbilt University on Friday, April 20.

Skyhawks overcome wind, Billikens for tenth win to avenge earlier loss

Jason Bohanan
Distribution Manager

The Skyhawk baseball team battled high winds and good-luck Billikens to pick up its 10th win of the season Wednesday.

The Skyhawks (10-21) used a seventh-inning burst to defeat St. Louis University 5-1, avenging a 1-0 loss to the Billikens (7-27) last month in St. Louis.

UTM led 2-1 in the seventh when senior Chad Green's double to right field jumpstarted the Skyhawks to a three-run, five-hit inning.

"Every big inning like that begins with a lead off like that. That was the biggest part of the inning maybe," UTM head coach Bubba Cates said.

Green would score on a Kyle Dudley single to right field. Junior Blake Turner was walked before scoring on Chris Rezabek's RBI single to center field. Dudley would score UTM's final run on sophomore Bryce

Carden's RBI single.

The Billikens could have had worse luck. UTM had the bases loaded with no outs before St. Louis recorded three straight outs to end the inning.

"You're always looking for one more big hit in there. I think that would have been the knockout punch," Cates said.

The seventh-inning explosion came after St. Louis pitcher Brock Hewitt shut the Skyhawks out for five consecutive innings. Hewitt surrendered six hits and no runs during the span.

"It was as much him as it was us," Cates said. The Billikens' defense kept it close until the seventh, allowing only two runs on 10 UTM hits prior to the inning.

The Skyhawks' batters started the game hot, taking a 2-0 lead in the first.

Sophomore Joe Raccuglia scored on a Lance Renton double to center field before Renton scored on Jason Hockaday's infield single.

UTM led 2-0 until the

fourth, when Billikens junior Greg Rodgers scored on Bill Musselman's double to left field.

The Billikens struggled to hit the ball all day, recording only seven hits to UTM's 16.

"We had a lot of big hits in the ballgame. I thought we really swung the bat well," Cates said.

Senior Ryan Rockholt started on the mound for UTM and earned his third win of the season. Rockholt allowed one hit before being relieved by sophomore Eric Walker in the fourth.

Rockholt was credited with two strikeouts and also hit Rodgers with a pitch.

Renton led with way in hitting for UTM, recording four hits, one RBI and one run in five at bats. Dudley followed with three hits, one RBI and one run in five attempts.

Carden was also credited with three hits and one RBI in three at bats.

Shooting: Continued from Cover

shooter was found dead on the scene, but a possibility of another shooter had not been ruled out, according to a report by CNN.

At UTM, students were outraged, upset and concerned with the shooting at Virginia Tech in relation to the safety of their own campus.

Almost four years ago, a classroom of students and a teacher were taken hostage at Dyersburg State Community College, 48 miles from Martin. Harold Kilpatrick held these hostages before being fatally wounded by Dyersburg police. Kilpatrick left a suicide note stating that he

wanted "to kill some people and die," according to a BBC report.

UTM Public Safety Capt. Ray Coleman said the campus does have a disaster plan in place in the event of a similar event occurring at UTM. The faculty has received this packet regarding the necessary steps for preventing mass casualties of students and staff, Coleman said.

"We take a proactive approach and work with local law enforcement officials on preparing for these potential situations," he said.

Specific information regarding local law

enforcement tactics cannot be disclosed because of the sensitive nature of security-related materials.

"The people get along so well but we must be aware that this type of incident can happen at any time and we are not isolated," Coleman said.

Watch for The Pacer's coverage of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations annual campus crime report later this month. Also, there will be further, more in-depth coverage of the security issues on this campus in next week's edition.

SGA: Continued from Cover

University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

If approved, students will pay \$154 per semester to subsidize UTM's athletic programs, a 48-percent increase over what students currently pay. The increase would make UTM's athletics fee the most expensive of any institution in the state that does not play in bowl games.

Dunagan has said previously he will support the outcome of the student vote.

Already, athletics takes the biggest chunk of the student activity fee, which is currently set at \$241 per semester.

According to student-athletes who wished to remain anonymous, the Department of Athletics called a meeting before the elections and strongly encourage athletes to vote and recruit two friends to vote in the elections as well. Athletics Department officials did not specifically suggest how the athletes should vote, the students said.

Danelle Fabianich, assistant director of athletics, when asked whether any consequences might be involved if student-athletes did not vote, said the students were not coerced into voting.

"We asked every one of our athletes to vote, so they participated in the process," Fabianich said. "We did not tell them (to vote) yes or no. We just asked them to vote."

She did not confirm or deny that there would be repercussions for not voting, but instead said, "We just asked all of them to vote."

UTM football coach Jason Simpson confirmed his team voted together "between practices."

Fabianich said she sees the athletics fee vote as a vote of confidence for student-athletes and UTM's athletic programs.

"We have plans to make athletics so much better. It's a boost of confidence (student-athletes) need."

She added athletics administrators met Monday morning to begin formulating a list of priorities for improvement, and she said athletic facilities are likely to top the list.

"We're mapping out our next steps. We want to make sure it's very visible what students are paying for," she said. "We're very pleased so many people believed in us."

Dane told SGA senators in March the fee would not support new scholarships, but rather would allow for equipment improvements and upgrades to UTM's sports facilities. He also argued the fee would help bring more notoriety to the university through increased sports publicity.

The athletics fee has been a rallying point for this year's student elections, but Dykes' YOUTM Party, which endorsed the fee, failed to pick up either of the contested seats on SGA's Executive Council. Chambers' Student Voice Party took no official stance on the fee.

Instead, Chambers said, "We support the athletes, but we also support all students."

In UTM's secretary-general race, Amelia Kosta, also of Chambers' Student Voice Party, defeated Kyle Kragenbrink of the YOUTM Party. Kosta picked up 692 votes, or about 58 percent, compared with Kragenbrink's 510.

None of the SGA Senate seats was contested in this year's election, but student turnout was significantly higher compared with last year, at least partially because of the special ballot initiative to raise athletics fees.

Students also voted Brittany McGruder their choice for student board of trustees representative. McGruder carried 637 votes. Students voted for up to three candidates to fill the position, with second- and third-place vote-getters being Katelyn Busmann and Cody Martin, respectively.

This year marked UTM's turn to choose a student representative on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, which rotates among UT system schools yearly. McGruder's student nod is still subject to local, as well as gubernatorial approval by Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen.

No Senate seats were contested in this year's election, and Grayson Uldrich of the YOUTM Party won the vice president's spot. Uldrich ran unopposed.

Turnout was markedly higher in this year's elections, at least in part because of the athletic fee special ballot initiative. A total 1,209 votes were cast in this year's election, compared with only 730 voting last year.

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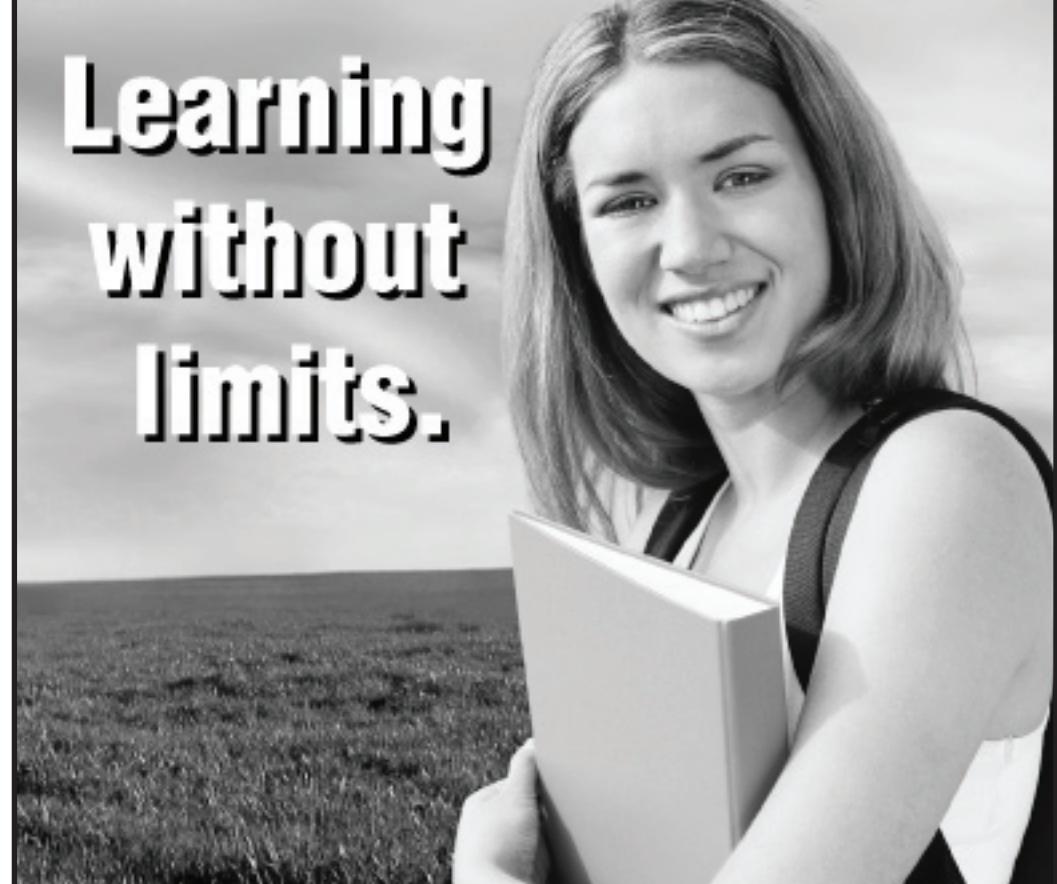
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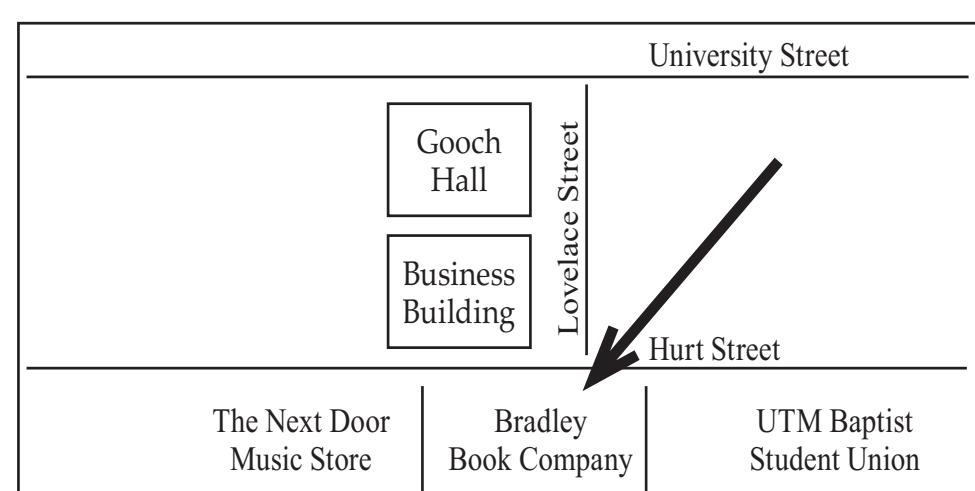


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